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InsideAPHIS

International Services

Protecting
and Promoting
American Agriculture
From Outside Our Borders



Table of Contents

Frances Krim Memorial
Inspection Station
Dedicated in New Jersey
Page 4

APHIS Officials Appointed to
Key Positions
Page 6

**Special Section: USDA
Honor Awards**
Page 7

Agreement on Marine
Mammal Inspections
Signed
Page 15

Former Chicago Officer-
In-Charge Dies at Age 85
Page 15

APHIS Employees Help
Local Schools
Page 16

Typhoon Paka Victims
Express Thanks to APHIS
Family as Others Hit by
Hurricane Georges
Page 17

From the Cover

Cooperative Programs Division
Manager Cecilia Garcia, IS
Region VI, Area 4, inspects
through a screen Medflies being
raised in the Metapa Rearing
facility in Tapachula, Chiapas,
Mexico.

APHIS photo by Ann Czapiewski

Cover Story

International Services Works Many Fronts for American Agriculture

Sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures. Biotechnology. Communication and coordination. Market access. Tariff reductions. Trade agreements.

Leadership and those working the front lines discussed such topics at this summer's USDA Global Attachés Conference in Washington, DC. Topics that are also issues at the heart of APHIS' International Services' (IS) mission: to protect American agriculture and public health and to facilitate U.S. exports.

IS' Deputy Administrator Angel Cielo told attachés from APHIS and USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), "Success depends on our ability to integrate technology and trade policy." Success also depends on partnerships and coordination, stresses Cielo. "Resolution of 77 animal and plant health measures and movement of \$2.2 billion in agricultural products could not have been accomplished without cooperation between APHIS and FAS."

Throughout the conference, which gave attachés a chance to hear about the latest technologies and market concerns, speakers such as Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Mike Dunn stressed the need for agreements and regulations "based on sound, scientific principles."

IS coordinates and communicates this sound, scientific information to our counterparts in Federal and State governments and our trading partners in other countries to ensure the safety of commodities shipped to the United States.

How does this get done? IS employees at headquarters in Riverdale, MD, and Washington, DC; international regional offices; and the cooperative screwworm eradication program provide leadership, manage-

ment, and coordination of the agency's international activities. IS' regions are

- South America
- Asia and the Pacific Basin
- Europe, Africa, and the Near East
- Mexico
- Central America and the Caribbean, and
- Panama.

Headquarters includes the Deputy Administrator's Office, the Resource and Management Services Staff, and the Trade Support Team. The Trade Support Team coordinates the collection, assembly, analysis, and sharing of trade-related information necessary to support APHIS' participation in trade negotiations and bilateral or multilateral technical meetings. IS employees around the world operate and oversee activities that include eradication and control programs in other countries, commodity preclearance programs, trade negotiations, transfer and sharing of technology, and participation with international and regional plant and animal health organizations.

Protecting U.S. Agriculture on Foreign Fronts

One example of an overseas eradication and control program is Moscamed, which is the Spanish common name for the Mediterranean fruit fly, or Medfly. APHIS participates in this program with Mexico and Guatemala to control Medflies in those countries and develop new technologies for use there and in other countries, including the United States. One technology being explored is the use of a phototoxic dye that the flies ingest. When flies are then exposed to sunlight, they die. (See *Inside APHIS*, Summer 1998.) Facilities operated under the program also raise sterile

Medflies that are released to control the pest during an outbreak.

IS also plays a key role in the multinational cooperative screwworm eradication program, which is considered one of the most successful pest eradication programs ever conducted. Screwworm is a devastating, potentially fatal condition affecting all warm-blooded animals in which the pest feeds on the host animal's living flesh. Screwworm was successfully eradicated in the southeastern United States in 1957 and southwestern United States in 1966. In 1972, the United States and the Government of Mexico initiated a cooperative screw-

worm eradication program in a portion of Mexico through establishing a biological barrier. The barrier covered an area in Mexico, which included the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, with sterile screwworm flies. Later, the screw-worm eradication program was expanded into Central America with the goal of covering the entire Central American Isthmus and Panama, eventually reaching Panama's Darien area.

Eradication activities have successfully resulted in the eradication of screwworm from Mexico in 1991, Belize and Guatemala in 1994, El Salvador in 1995, and Honduras in 1996. Nicaragua is expected to be

officially declared screwworm-free by the middle of 1999, and IS expects to eradicate the remaining screwworm infestations in Costa Rica by the end of 1999. Eradication efforts in Panama, the final frontier of the program, have also been going well, and a barrier of sterile flies is already taking shape across the country's isthmus to keep screwworm out of Central and North America. Eradication of this significant pest means preventing nearly \$800 million in estimated damages to producers in the United States, almost \$300 million in damages to producers in Mexico, and close to \$100 million in damages to producers in Central America.

Another IS overseas eradication and control effort is the program to control the pink hibiscus mealybug, which has threatened the environments and economies of the Caribbean and nearby countries. Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) and IS employees worked with these countries to fight this pest of more than 200 varieties of plants and trees. To control the mealybug and help slow the spread as it moves northward through the Caribbean toward the United States, scientists tested introducing a natural enemy into Caribbean areas where mealybugs had been found. Because this method was successful, when the mealybug makes its way to a new area, this biotechnology can be readily transferred to get the pest quickly under control before serious environmental and economic damage occurs. (Read more about the biotechnology to fight pink hibiscus mealybug in the Spring Issue of *Inside APHIS*.)

IS also protects U.S. health and agriculture through preclearance programs. In these programs, APHIS inspects and oversees the treatment of

IS Region VI, Area 1 Field Coordinator Luis Lopez (right) discusses the maritime cargo inspection of ships in the Port of Ensenada, Mexico, with Sanidad International Quarantine Chief Gerardo Ramirez.



APHIS PHOTO BY ANN CZAPIEWSKI

IS continued on page 18

Honoring a Friend: The Frances Krim Inspection Station

by John Scott, Legislative and Public Affairs, Riverdale, MD

Standing among the audience members at the dedication of the Frances Krim Memorial Plant Inspection Station in Linden, NJ, it would have been difficult for an outside observer to tell if it was a formal ceremony or a family reunion. In many ways, it was both.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 18, officially marked the opening of the plant inspection station, which has been operational since October 1997. Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) employees, both past and present, as well as the mayor of Linden and other local officials, all gathered to dedicate the new state-of-the-art facility, which replaced the old station in Hoboken, NJ. Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Michael V. Dunn gave the keynote address to open the new, more customer-accessible facility.

Although everyone attending was eager to tour the new building situated near the New Jersey Seaport and Newark International Airport, many came for another reason. They gathered to remember and honor their close friend and colleague, Frances

Krim, who passed away in 1991. Before the dedication ceremony began, people excitedly joined in small groups to share stories about "Fran" as if they were talking about a sister, favorite aunt, or grandmother. From across the room, others hailed coworkers they had not seen in years. At times, some were moved to tears. Many of those attending were united in their experience of knowing Frances Krim as a mentor and inspiration.

Who Was Frances Krim?

Starting out as a clerk, Frances Krim completed her college education and became a well-respected entomologist during her 40-year career with USDA. She was the first female PPQ officer in the Port of New York and the first female insect identifier in APHIS. In addition to her professional accomplishments, she demonstrated great compassion for her coworkers. As a teacher's aide at PPQ's training center in New York, she met and helped many students who have since risen in the ranks of PPQ. These include several State Plant Health

Directors such as Richard Ransom, New Jersey; Roger West, Maryland; and Bernetta Barco, Virginia. Krim's endless good spirit earned her the professional and personal respect of all who worked with her.

A Tribute: Friends Remember; the Port Improves Service

In a special tribute during the inspection station's dedication, former students and coworkers stood up to share anecdotes about her patient and caring ways. "She was the most kind and genuine human you'd ever meet. Fran was truly a beautiful person," said Riverdale's Bud Petit de Mange, one of the many PPQ employees who spoke about her as a mentor.

Organizers of the event also were able to save pieces of the marble floor from the old building where she worked. Small, cut squares of the marble were given out to mark the occasion. As Port Director for Port Elizabeth/Port Newark Mary Negron explained, "She obviously touched the lives of many people. We thought it was only fitting that people have a reminder of her spirit by having a piece of the marble she touched everyday as she worked."

As many noted throughout the ceremony, Frances Krim would be proud of her legacy of good will and also of the facility that now bears her name. The new facility is more centrally located near the New Jersey Seaport and Newark International Airport. With an expansive cargo space, the new facility better accommodates maritime cargo, allowing inspectors to handle large shipments with greater ease. The fumigation chambers also enable more efficient service. The 400-ft³ chamber and two



APHIS PHOTO BY DON KLOTZBLECHER

During the open house, members of Frances Krim's family look at exhibits in the inspection lab of the new inspection station in New Jersey.

200-ft³ chambers can easily handle the pests anticipated to be found on the more than 2 million plant units officers will inspect this year. The chambers exceed agency specifications and were reconfigured and installed for a cost less than moving the old station's fumigation systems. Because the chambers can quickly evacuate fumigants, PPQ inspectors can work faster and in a more environmentally friendly way. As Martin Feinstein, a PPQ officer at the port, observed while leading group tours, "Just like Fran, this facility helps us work better for our customers. She was about caring and quality service before it became a management trend." Her tradition in quality has carried on. Several inspection station employees noted with pride that no incoming shipments were delayed during the staff's transition to the new building.

Many who attended the ceremony, including members of Frances Krim's family, noted their appreciation for the chosen name of the facility. It is, after all, a very tangible tribute to her work and life. However, as many also observed, the real tribute to Fran is the living legacy represented by the numerous people she positively influenced throughout her years of service. Judging by the large attendance at the ceremony, she was a profound inspiration. The emulation of her character by those she touched will be her true lasting legacy. ♦

(Above) Bud Petit de Mange, PPQ, Riverdale, MD, (right) talks with George Strasser during the reception that followed the dedication. Strasser retired from the Methods Development Lab in Hoboken, NJ, and now lives in Spotswood, NJ. (Left) Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Mike Dunn visits with Port Director Mary Negron following the inspection station dedication in Linden, NJ.



APHIS PHOTO BY DON KLOTZBLECHER

"In loving memory of Frances Krim who was our eternal ambassador, teacher, friend, and confidante. Her inexorable spirit shall continue to live in the hearts of all she touched."

from the plaque honoring Frances Krim



APHIS PHOTO BY DON KLOTZBLECHER

Reed and Arnoldi Chosen To Head APHIS

DeHaven Named Deputy for Animal Care



USDA PHOTO

APHIS Administrator Craig Reed

On July 24, Craig Reed was appointed Administrator of APHIS and Joan Arnoldi was appointed Associate Administrator by Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. Reed was the Associate Administrator and had been serving as the Acting Administrator. Arnoldi takes Reed's place as Associate Administrator after she served as head of APHIS' Veterinary Services (VS) since 1995.

"Both Reed and Arnoldi have served USDA and APHIS with distinction for many years," says Glickman. "I am confident that their leadership at APHIS will strengthen our ability to continue opening foreign markets to American producers and to protect the United States from unwanted plant and animal pests and diseases."

Reed has been with USDA since 1973, and before coming to APHIS served as Deputy Administrator of the office of field operations at USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and as director of the science division at USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. After growing up on a farm in

Michigan, Reed obtained his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Michigan State University.

Before serving as APHIS' Deputy Administrator for VS, Arnoldi served as Wisconsin State veterinarian and administrator of animal health for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture. At APHIS she has served as director of the APHIS National Veterinary



APHIS PHOTO BY ANN CZAPIEWSKI

Associate Administrator Joan Arnoldi

Services Laboratories and as the first Deputy Administrator for the former Regulatory Enforcement and Animal Care program. Arnoldi, who has been with USDA since 1988, earned her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Illinois.

"Their expertise and professionalism will strengthen APHIS' ability to help American producers and consumers in the years ahead," Michael Dunn, Under Secretary of Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

VS' Associate Deputy Administrator Tom Walton is the Acting Deputy Administrator for VS and Assistant Deputy Administrator John R. Clifford is the Acting VS Associate Deputy Administrator.

On September 27, Reed named Ron DeHaven Deputy Administrator for Animal Care (AC). DeHaven has been AC's Acting Deputy Administrator since November 1996.

"I am confident that Ron will continue to strengthen and invigorate the management in APHIS," said Reed. "His demonstrated commitment and leadership skills will further enhance the animal care activities of our agency."

DeHaven was born in Salt Lake City, UT, but has also lived in California, Illinois, Indiana, Colorado, Kentucky, Mississippi, and Maryland. He graduated from veterinary school at Purdue University in 1975, then spent 4 years in the Army Veterinary Corps at Fort Carson, CO. In 1979, DeHaven entered reserve status with the Army and began his career with APHIS. He spent 6 years in Lexington, KY, as a field veterinary medical officer and then moved to Jackson, MS, with Veterinary Services serving as the assistant veterinarian in charge. While in Mississippi, DeHaven earned his Masters of Business Administration from Millsaps College. He then moved to California, working for 7 years as the regional director for animal care in the western United States. ♦



USDA PHOTO

Deputy Administrator for Animal Care Ron DeHaven

Inside APHIS

Special Section

Fall 1998

USDA Honor Awards Recognize APHIS Employees

by Patricia Wright, Legislative and Public Affairs, Riverdale, MD



USDA PHOTO

Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman (far left) and Deputy Secretary Rich Rominger (far right) stand with IS' Ed Gersabeck (left) and PPQ's Dale Myerdirk (right) after presenting them with a USDA Honor Award for their work fighting the pink hibiscus mealybug. (See page 9.)

On June 10, several APHIS employees received 1998 Secretary's Honor Awards at USDA headquarters in Washington, DC. "I have long felt that public service is one of the most rewarding and satisfying experiences possible," said Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. "No one merits recognition more than those we honor today." Awards were given in the categories of emergency response, environmental protection, heroism, personal and professional excellence, and support personnel.

Emergency Response

Karnal Bunt Project Team, Plant Protection and Quarantine's

Kerry Bryan, Albuquerque, NM; Gary Carpenter, Portland, OR; Rose Lane, Robert Nave, James Reynolds, and Helene Wright, Sacramento, CA; Stephen Poe, Matthew Royer, and Michael Stefan, Riverdale, MD; Frank Rothgery, Anchorage, AK; Charles Schwalbe, Washington, DC; James Schoenholz, Phoenix, AZ; and Kevin Talbert, San Diego, CA

On March 8, 1996, Karnal bunt, an exotic disease of wheat, was confirmed on a wheat seed sample from Arizona. An initial task force of 15 people began assembling to complete survey and regulatory work within 2 days. The main duty of the Karnal Bunt Project Team was to eradicate Karnal bunt and maintain U.S. wheat exports.

They traced back samples and confirmed additional Karnal bunt detection in seed shipments. Based on further investigations, a regulated area was established to include parts of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. To handle necessary tasks, a work force of 250 was needed. During the spring, summer, and fall of 1996, the development of the organization and logistics alone required extraordinary leadership.

A preharvest sampling method was initiated by the Karnal Bunt Project Team. This process was completed in time to allow growers to harvest and sell their wheat. Laboratories were

Awards continued on next page

Awards continued from previous page

established, allowing timely sample analysis by operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

One major challenge to the team was maintaining control over the movement of wheat to prevent further infestation. Risk-based regulations had to be developed and practical application of those regulations had to be put in place at the field level.

There was an extreme urgency to prove to our foreign trading partners that the infestation was isolated and would not affect wheat exports from other U.S. wheat-producing areas. The Karnal bunt project personnel promptly responded and provided sufficient data to convince most of our foreign trading partners to accept wheat from other U.S. States. This action averted economic disaster to the U.S. wheat industry.

The Karnal bunt program was always a multi-agency effort. Federal and State employees worked as a team for a successful outcome. Although APHIS took the lead, the Agricultural Marketing Service; the Grain, Packers, and Stockyards Administration; and the Foreign Agricultural Service had significant roles as well. The coordination of all the agencies was an important accomplishment due to Karnal bunt's economic impact in regulated areas. By encouraging close cooperation, project managers prevented the spread of the disease to noninfected areas and sustained U.S. exports throughout most of the world.

Environmental Protection

APHIS and Agricultural Research Service Medfly Group

Danny Gates, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Edinburg, TX; Farouk Hamdy, Jorge Rizzo, Nora Solares, John Stewart, and Carlos Villatoro, International Services, Guatemala City, Guatemala; Timothy Holler, PPQ, Gainesville, FL; Felipe



APHIS PHOTO BY ANN CZAPIEWSKI

WS Deputy Administrator Bobby Acord congratulates Louisiana WS State Director Dwight LeBlanc on his USDA Honor Award for work concerning the Louisiana black bear and human-wildlife conflicts. (See page 10.)

Jeronimo and Pedro Rendon, PPQ, Guatemala City, Guatemala; Arnulfo Llaven, IS, Tapachula, Mexico; and Elba Quintero, IS, Mexico City, Mexico

The Cooperative Medfly Group is providing integrated pest management strategies that concentrate on the use of biological control agents and other environmentally sensitive control methods. These strategies are provided to fruit fly eradication programs in the United States and around the world. The Cooperative Medfly Program is also controlling populations of the Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) that are threatening the agricultural industry in Guatemala and Mexico.

In conjunction with the Agricultural Research Service and the International Atomic Energy Association, the Medfly program has developed a temperature-sensitive lethal strain of Medfly. This development is proving to be a breakthrough in the use of sterile

Medflies in eradication projects. Use of this strain will reduce the length of eradication programs and save substantial amounts of resources. For methods of fruit fly control, the Medfly Program has developed parasitic wasps and is working on a cooperative effort to determine the benefit and efficacy of photoactive dyes.

Asian Longhorned Beetle Team

Eugene Binder and Rebecca Carter, PPQ, Westhampton Beach, NY; Joe Cavey and Ron Milberg, PPQ, Riverdale, MD; Joseph Gittleman, PPQ, Jamaica, NY; Terrill Goodman, PPQ, Moorestown, NJ; Kenneth Law, PPQ, Newburgh, NY; Nolan Lemon, Legislative and Public Affairs, Gainesville, FL; and Victor Mastro, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Otis National Guard Base, MA

It was in August 1996 that the Asian longhorned beetle was found in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg section

of Brooklyn, NY. A month later, the beetle was found on Long Island, NY. A warning was given by a science panel, stating that the nonnative pest could spread and destroy America's hardwood forests if infested trees were not removed.

The tree removal process on suburban Long Island was completed without incident. However, in urbanized Greenpoint, tree cover is merely 3 percent. The community could not afford to lose one tree, much less 800. The community refused to allow the tree removal until funds were provided to replace the trees that would be lost.

Because of this concern, rapid action, and resourcefulness, USDA's Forest Service secured \$500,000 in February 1997, to restore the trees in Greenpoint and on Long Island. Tree removal could then proceed.

Quarantines were imposed to prevent the spread of the beetle, while team members worked on tree-by-tree surveys, community relations, and removal operations. The team leader relocated to New York City to help the



APHIS PHOTO

The Asian longhorned beetle was fought in New York State by a team honored by the Secretary at the USDA Honor Awards. (begins on previous page)

community develop a greening plan, to facilitate public involvement, provide urban forestry and forest health information, ensure technical excellence in replanting projects, involve diverse stakeholders, coordinate agencies and organizations, and support the community in crisis.

The team faced many challenges. Some of the infested trees were in backyards with no access to the street, so they had to be carried through the living rooms of row homes.

The team was successful in conducting the tree removal effort, and research projects were begun to learn more about the beetle and how to control it. Community leaders are even learning to better care for their own trees. The Asian longhorned beetle project is a model of forest health and issue management in complex urban environments.

Edward Gersabeck, International Services, and Dale Meyerdirk, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Riverdale, MD

Dale Meyerdirk and Edward Gersabeck have made a cooperative effort to develop and transfer biological control technology to fight the pink hibiscus mealybug (PHM), a project largely responsible for successfully protecting the economies and environments of Caribbean countries against the devastating effects of PHM.

The PHM is an especially harmful insect pest. It attacks plants in over

Awards continued on next page

APHIS USDA Honor Award recipients applaud for another APHIS honoree at a ceremony conducted by the agency, in Riverdale, MD.

APHIS PHOTO BY ANN CZAPIEWSKI





APHIS PHOTO BY ANN CZAPIEWSKI

PPQ's Stephen Poe of Riverdale, MD, honored for his work with the Karnal Bunt Project Team, is given a hug by his daughter at the APHIS reception. (See page 7.)

Awards continued from previous page

215 genera in 70 families, causing severe damage. The PHM was first reported in the Western Hemisphere on the island of Grenada in 1994. It is now established on 16 islands in the Caribbean, including the U.S. Virgin Islands, Viequez, Puerto Rico, and the mainland country of Guyana in South America. The PHM represents a serious threat to the United States.

Meyerdirk and Gersabeck conceived, developed, and secured funding to carry out a proposal to develop biological control technology that maintains this pest below economic injury level. This has been accomplished through a U.S. program and an international biological control

technology transfer program to distribute this biotechnology to needy countries threatened by PHM.

Meyerdirk and Gersabeck have helped maintain the economies and environments of Caribbean nations from the devastating effects of PHM. Their effort to save these nations' economies has also enhanced trade facilitation.

*Dwight LeBlanc, Wildlife Services,
Port Allen, LA*

With the help of Wildlife Services' (WS) State Director Dwight LeBlanc, Louisiana WS joined the Black Bear Conservation Committee (BBCC) and assisted in restoring the black bear in

the State. As chairman of the BBCC's Conflict Management Team, LeBlanc coordinated the development of a protocol addressing conflicts between humans and the Louisiana black bear. This protocol helped set the stage for WS becoming a key player in the restoration effort.

LeBlanc wrote the "Solutions to Human/Bear Conflicts" chapter in the first and second editions of the BBCC's *Black Bear Management Handbook*. During the spring of 1997, LeBlanc assisted in planning and implementing a large-scale damage management project for one of the Nation's largest commercial beekeepers. LeBlanc has capitalized on

educational opportunities that arise when bears are spotted in urban areas. He has also made himself accessible to the media for interviews. As part of his ongoing educational efforts, he has given lectures to grade school and college students, often incorporating the Louisiana black bear in his talks. In August 1997, for his contribution to the restoration of the Louisiana black bear, LeBlanc was awarded the BBCC's Chairman's Award.

Heroism

Joseph Bennett, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Buffalo, NY

Joseph Bennett has been a permanent part-time laborer for the Plant Protection and Quarantine work unit in Buffalo, NY, for 5 years. Bennett is also a full-time maintenance worker and was working with the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission at the Whirlpool Bridge on April 17, 1997. He received a call alerting him that a man was at the midpoint of the bridge and appeared ready to jump. Bennett went out on the bridge and saw a man on the opposite side of the railing leaning out and looking up as if ready to free fall backwards.

Constable Daniel Savoie from the Niagara Regional Police arrived and began talking with the man. The man looked at Savoie and asked questions. Bennett, realizing that he was in the man's blind spot, moved closer and grabbed the man in a bear hug. The man's feet went off the bridge as he tried to jump, but because Bennett, the Constable, and a U.S. Customs Officer risked their lives, they were able to pull the man to safety.

Personal and Professional Excellence

China Animal Products Export Group
Najam Faizi, Veterinary Services, Riverdale, MD, and Dennis Senne, VS, Ames, IA; Si Dong Lu and Ray



APHIS PHOTO BY ANN CZAPIEWSKI

PPQ Associate Deputy Administrator Chuck Schwalbe congratulates VS' Linda Detwiler on her award for personal and professional excellence. (See below.)

Miyamoto, International Services, Beijing, China

The China Animal Products Export Group was established in October 1996. The group conducted negotiations with the Chinese Animal and Plant Health Quarantine Service to address Chinese import restrictions that affect U.S. exports of poultry meat and other animal products. The group concluded that new animal health protocols would make U.S. exports more reliable. In 1996, U.S. exports of poultry and poultry products grew 53 percent to over \$70 million. The protocols acted as an important step to ensure that U.S. exporters could compete in the Chinese market.

In October 1996, the Chinese Animal and Plant Health Quarantine Service indicated that they would ban U.S. exports (poultry meat, day-old chicks, and hatching eggs) because of the alleged presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The United States then presented China with the position that U.S. exports did not have HPAI and that the

United States had sufficient surveillance systems to detect avian influenza. The contemplated ban was not implemented.

The China Animal Products Export Group has been helpful in improving export opportunities for U.S. breeding stock and genetic material. Two bovine semen centers and six embryo transplant centers have been approved for export to China. During a bilateral meeting held in January 1997, four protocols (for bovine and swine semen, live ostriches, and ostrich hatching eggs) were negotiated and finalized on February 3, 1997, allowing more access for U.S. products.

Linda Detwiler, Veterinary Services, Robbinsville, NJ

In addition to being the Area Veterinarian in Charge for New Jersey, Linda Detwiler also serves as APHIS' spokesperson on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE's).

Awards continued on next page



APHIS PHOTO BY ANN CZAPIEWSKI

PPQ's Joseph Bennett, who was awarded for heroism, looks through the program for the USDA Honor Awards ceremony with his wife, who traveled with him from Buffalo, NY, for the awards presentations and APHIS reception. (See page 11.)

Awards continued from previous page

Detwiler has greatly contributed to the quest to understand bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), commonly known as "mad cow disease." BSE was discovered in Great Britain in 1986 and aroused worldwide concern. Detwiler was one of the first to recognize the potential devastation of BSE to the United States. She was an advocate for the monitoring of cattle previously imported from Britain and promoted the banning of and giving special attention to cattle products in order to lessen BSE exposure to U.S. livestock and citizens. The APHIS TSE Working Group, with Detwiler's help as chairperson, formed a contingency plan for APHIS' response if BSE were to enter the United States.

Detwiler has also conducted several briefings on Capitol Hill when the public's BSE fears peaked.

Support Personnel

Lori Anderson, Veterinary Services, Ames, IA

In addition to being a staff assistant at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) in Ames, IA, Lori Anderson is coordinator for the Veterinary Services Management Team (VSMT). She is the first person in a support position appointed as a full voting member of this team.

Anderson coordinates VSMT's activities, which has made the VSMT meetings more productive. Her

accurate and prompt distribution of information and materials has greatly contributed to the VSMT's increased productivity. She develops an agenda, coordinates travel, makes hotel accommodations, arranges for meeting rooms, and handles all other logistical details related to the meetings. Anderson is responsible for managing the VSMT's electronic bulletin board and arranging conference calls and other special-purpose meetings.

Anderson also initiated the formation of the VSMT Assistants Group. This group consists of employees who support individual VSMT members at their duty stations. There is a monthly conference call with the group that facilitates networking, continual learning, and methods to improve services.

Other Recognition and Accomplishments

The recipients of the Secretary's Honor Awards are not the only achievers here at APHIS. We couldn't recognize them all here, but these are a few examples of other accomplishments by APHIS employees over the last year.

Hammer Awards

Port of Brownsville, TX

Anabel Unwin, Eugene Stang, Lisa Davis, Thomas Roberts, Bob Parker, Jose Cavazos, Ronald Olivarez, Patrick Canales, Kathryn Hanvy, Susan Skaggs, and Elias Gonzalez, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Brownsville, TX

On July 23, employees from APHIS, the U.S. Customs Service, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) received the Hammer Award for their improvements in

efficiency at the Brownsville, TX, port of entry.

APHIS, INS, and U.S. Customs Service employees in Brownsville reduced the time it takes travelers to enter the United States by streamlining the Federal Inspection Service primary inspection process. They implemented changes that included, among other things, new training for employees; the installation of a loop radio, improved signage, and a baggage X-ray machine; and a program to increase the awareness of travelers. All these changes helped re-engineer the primary inspection process.

"We are proud that APHIS employees are cutting red tape and saving the taxpayers money," said Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Michael V. Dunn.

INS' Harlingen District Director Mike Trominski praises the work that has been done at the land port saying, "This shows that all three agencies can work together not only in the enforcement aspects of our respective operational responsibilities, but in the services provided to our external customers at the ports of entry. This community effort was also achieved with the cooperation of Brownsville and the community as a whole."

Transgenic Arthropod Team

Michael Firko, Arnold Foudin, Lauren Jones, Norman Leppla, Vedpal Malik, Joseph Vorgetts, and Orrey Young, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Riverdale, MD; Glen Garriss, Veterinary Services, Riverdale, MD; Kenneth Lakin, PPQ, Raleigh, NC; Ralph Stoaks, PPQ, Sacramento, CA; Don Vacek, PPQ, Mission, TX

On October 1, 1997, an 11-member virtual team of employees received the Hammer Award for its efforts to make government work better and cost less.

The team developed the first system to authorize and regulate applicants

requesting to introduce genetically engineered, or transgenic, arthropods (e.g., spiders) into the environment. To address the regulatory needs of the emerging transgenic arthropod industry, the team reinvented an existing system used to regulate transgenic plants and microorganisms. The new system emphasizes innovation, efficiency, transparency, and customer input and enables the staff to process permit applications in fewer than 120 days.

Textbook Published

Sivramiah Shantharam, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Riverdale, MD

Plant Protection and Quarantine's Sivramiah Shantharam, in collaboration with his former professor S.B. Sullia, has written a microbiology textbook. The textbook, entitled *General Microbiology*, will be used as an advanced undergraduate textbook for students studying areas such as agriculture, general biology, nursing, pre-med, and home science. The book is being marketed worldwide and is the culmination of an 8-year effort on the part of Shantharam and Sullia. Shantharam describes the effort as a "great learning and tedious experience, which gave insight into all aspects of textbook publication. It made me realize how important it is to have a sense of purpose, dedication, and discipline to undertake such a task." He also acknowledges his former supervisor Arnold Foudin and former APHIS Administrator Terry Medley for their support.

Wildlife Achievement Awards

Guy Connolly, Wildlife Services, Fort Collins, CO

Guy Connolly, a former WS employee, was selected by the Jack H.

Berryman Institute for Wildlife Damage Management at the Utah State University for a 1998 Lifetime Achievement Award. Connolly has made several important contributions to the field of wildlife damage management. He was invaluable in developing and field testing tools to control coyotes, such as the M-44 sodium cyanide device and the 1080 livestock protection collar.

In addition, *John Turman, WS Supervisor for California's Southern District*, was selected for the 1998 Program Achievement Award. The award recognizes programs that enhance human-wildlife relations. Turman was especially acknowledged for his dedication to the protection of endangered species while managing problems such as bird strikes to aircraft.

Customer Service

The Veterinary Services (VS) Customer Service Awards Program annually recognizes an individual and a work unit for innovation, creativity, and an extraordinary willingness to improve services. For fiscal year (FY) 1997 *Amy Mitchell, Regional Administrative Officer, Western Region, Englewood, CO*, was the Customer Service Employee of the Year. The *Harry S Truman Animal Import Center (HSTAIC), Key West, FL*, was the FY 1997 Customer Service Unit of the Year.

Mitchell was awarded Customer Service Employee of the Year for leading the effort to develop the VS Employee Handbook. The handbook contains a vast amount of information about APHIS, VS, and the rights and entitlements of Federal employees. It is an orientation tool for new employees and is an excellent reference source for all employees. Mitchell and her team developed the handbook to provide

Awards continued on next page



APHIS PHOTO

The sheep shown here is wearing a livestock protection collar, a device that WS retiree Guy Connolly helped develop and field test. He received a lifetime achievement award. (See page 13.)

Awards continued from previous page

one-stop shopping for most general information that employees need on Federal service, APHIS, and VS. Mitchell and the team provided copies

of the handbook, including an electronic version, to each VS director to use and reproduce as needed.

HSTAIC was awarded Customer Service Unit of the Year because the employees took extra steps to improve services for customers. This facility has a long history of providing a unique service to importers of animals from countries where exotic diseases exist. The final stop for many of these animals before they are dispersed throughout the United States to become part of the domestic animal population is quarantine at HSTAIC.

Among the unit's achievements was an open house in September 1997. This event allowed more than 250 individuals to visit the facility. The employees hosted importers, brokers, USDA officials, and the public by providing tours and displaying and presenting information regarding the services offered by HSTAIC. Additionally, HSTAIC employees made great strides in improving themselves as a team. During FY 1997, the employees met frequently to evaluate themselves, critique their work, and suggest improvements. The unit sent a survey to importers who had used the facility in recent years to ask for input in making improvements. ❖

Get Better Informed and More in Touch Read *APHIS Online* and *News Alert*

Although *Inside APHIS* is published every quarter, we want you to be able to read about APHIS activities when they are more current, and to access them more quickly. That's why we established *APHIS Online*; it's posted on APHIS' Intranet. *Online* is published every two weeks and covers APHIS activities, accomplishments, and awards in a brief format. You can scan through it anytime without the delay of printing and distribution.

The *APHIS Online* site includes archives and electronic versions of

Inside APHIS. You can go directly to *APHIS Online* and bookmark it at

http://inside.aphis.usda.gov/planning/aphis_online/

You can also find *APHIS Online* through the APHIS News Intranet page. When you go to the Intranet home page, you'll see an icon for APHIS News. Clicking there gives you quick access to several news sources. One link takes you to Mike Causey's "Federal Diary," which is published daily in the *Washington*

Post. Causey provides a variety of information Federal employees may be interested in, including buyouts, open seasons, union activities, and TSP fund rates.

News Alert is a daily clipping service, for APHIS and by APHIS, that lets you know what daily newspapers and wire services are writing about APHIS and topics of interest to APHIS employees.

Happy surfing and reading!

Agreement on Marine Mammals Signed

by Jamie Ambrosi, Legislative and Public Affairs, Riverdale, MD

On July 18, APHIS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) signed a formal memorandum of agreement (MOA) regarding the enforcement of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA).

"This agreement is the result of several years of hard work by our Animal Care (AC) staff officers and their counterparts at FWS and NMFS," said APHIS Administrator Craig Reed. "We now have a blueprint that guides all Federal agencies in their enforcement of the MMPA and ultimately leads to improved care for all marine mammals in captivity."

The agreement was necessitated by 1994 amendments to the MMPA, which changed the roles of APHIS, NMFS, and FWS in overseeing the care and maintenance of captive

marine mammals and made the previous MOA of 1979 obsolete. "We had to go back to the drawing board and come up with a new agreement that would reflect the intent of Congress and the needs of marine mammals today, not 20 years ago," notes Ron DeHaven, AC's Deputy Administrator.

The new MOA codifies the roles and responsibilities of each agency in enforcing the MMPA and Animal Welfare Act and clarifies areas of jurisdiction to engender cooperation and avoid duplication of efforts. The document also spells out the procedures for confiscating or euthanizing marine mammals under the AWA and seizing animals under the MMPA. ❖



APHIS PHOTO BY ANN CZAPIEWSKI

(Left to right) National Marine Fisheries Service Assistant Administrator Rollie Schmitten, Fish and Wildlife Service Director Jamie Rappaport Clark, and APHIS Administrator Craig Reed sign the agreement that will lead to improved care of marine mammals in captivity.

In Remembrance Willard C. Wakefield

Willard C. (Wake) Wakefield, 85, former Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer in Charge for Chicago, IL, died October 1. Wakefield worked for USDA most of his career and served APHIS since it's establishment 26 years ago. He retired about 10 years ago to live in suburban Wheaton, IL.

Wakefield began his career in Chicago working on a variety of programs, including transit inspections. After serving in the Navy during World War II, he returned to plant quarantine work in Honolulu, HI, then transferred back to Chicago to be the Officer in Charge. He worked initial international flights into Chicago's O'Hare International Airport on portable folding tables that were set up prior to each flight. Quite a change from the inspection process today.

Along with the numerous contributions he made during his tenure, Wakefield will be remembered for his steadfast dedication to plant protection principles.

Cards or condolences may be sent to the family in care of

Williams-Kampp Funeral Home
430 E. Roosevelt Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

APHIS Volunteers Help Students in Community Schools

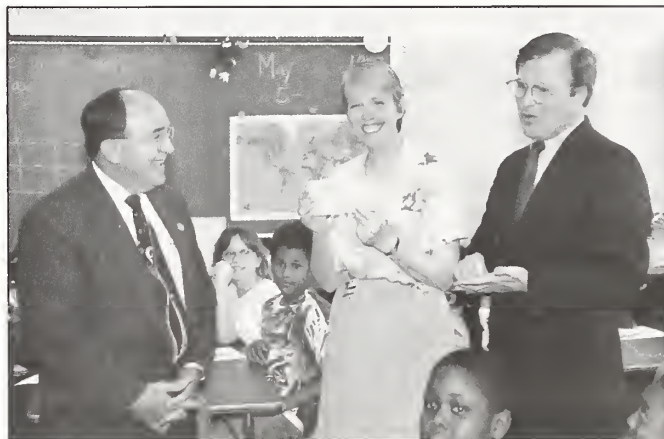
by Laura Concannon, Legislative and Public Affairs, Riverdale, MD

APHIS employees know a smart investment when they see it. For more than 6 years, agency personnel in Riverdale, MD, have donated their time and talents to three community schools through the "Partnership in Education" program. Their efforts are yielding positive results in three Hyattsville, MD, schools: Hyattsville Elementary School, Hyattsville Middle School, and Northwestern Senior High School.

"Your contribution can make a difference in the lives of our students," Mary Ellen Keyes, APHIS' Partnership in Education Committee Chair, wrote to APHIS employees in September 1997. And, indeed, it does. Last year, 25 APHIS employees responded to Keyes' invitation by donating their time and talents to helping Hyattsville students. Five were mentors to students at the high school level, and the remaining 20 volunteers tutored younger students with their studies in specific subjects.

By serving as mentors or tutors, APHIS volunteers provide focused attention and needed support, as well as positive role models, to schoolchildren at a critical stage in their development. This extra support assists students in improving classroom skills and increases their likelihood of completing high school, attending college, and attaining academic success. Through this positive impact on the academic development of the children in their community, APHIS employees are having a beneficial effect on the development of tomorrow's community leaders.

True to its vision of valuing people through continual learning, APHIS encourages its employees to donate their time and talents to the agency's adopted schools. Because APHIS and the Partnership in Education program recognize that employees have little free time between work and home responsibilities, the agency allows all



WS Deputy Administrator Bobby Acord (left) presents a check to Hyattsville Elementary's science teacher, Eleanor Toth, and principal, Roger White. The funds raised by a T-shirt sale will be used by the school to purchase science and audio-visual equipment.

employees—both at headquarters and in the field—up to 2 hours of administrative leave per week to serve as a mentor or tutor. This enables APHIS employees to take advantage of the opportunity to invest in their community's children without jeopardizing their ability to meet home and work demands.

In addition, if employees want to help but do not feel that they can make a weekly commitment, the Partnership in Education program allows two volunteers to "time-share" with a student. Through co-mentoring or co-tutoring, APHIS partners share the responsibilities of a mentoring or tutoring commitment. This arrangement gives volunteers needed flexibility, shared workload and benefits, and gives the student two role models. Volunteers can begin tutoring or mentoring at any time during the school year.

In addition to providing mentoring and tutoring, the participants in the Partnership in Education program engage in a host of other activities to help school children and their families. These activities include preparing gift baskets for the needy, collecting teddy bears for homeless children, acting as judges for school science fairs, holding panel discussions and brown bag lunches on issues affecting children and education, collecting and donating

food receipts for school equipment, and donating excess office supplies to schools.

APHIS employees are not limited to only these activities if they wish to help schools in their community, as the Environmental Responsibility Coordination Team (ERTC) demonstrated in their recent effort to help Hyattsville Elementary School. As part of an initiative to increase awareness about environmental issues, the ERTC offered "Living in Harmony with the Environment" T-shirts for sale to members of the APHIS family. From those sales, the ERTC generated over \$700 in profits. The team could think of no better way to use the funds than to donate them to one of the agency's adopted schools to enable it to purchase additional science equipment. Bobby Acord, Deputy Administrator for Wildlife Services and Chair of the ERTC for the APHIS Management Team, presented the check to the school on May 6.

"We wanted to do something to benefit science studies and to further children's interest in science, since APHIS is a science-based agency," said Acord. In fact, Hyattsville Elementary's student body is already benefiting from a first-rate science program. As one of Maryland

Schools continued on next page

The APHIS Family

Thank You for Helping in the Aftermath of Disaster

After Typhoon Paka devastated Guam in December 1997. Wildlife Services (WS) Deputy Administrator Bobby Acord called for the APHIS family to come together to provide relief to WS employees who lost so much in this disaster (*Inside APHIS*, January/February 1998). You generously responded. Those who benefited would like to thank you.

I would like to express to all of Wildlife Services and APHIS employees who contributed funds to the Typhoon Paka Relief Fund.

Just knowing that you were all concerned about our lives and adjustments through that devastating disaster is a comparison of what family members do and feel for one another.

On behalf of my three children and myself, I want to thank all of you for caring.

Thanks Family!
Lotus I. Leal
Office Automation Clerk

On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful people who contributed to the Typhoon Paka Relief Fund.

Thanks,
Tony Techaira
Field Supervisor

Please convey to the co-workers, families, and friends of APHIS/WS our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for their support to our families and friends here in Guam. It is indeed a pleasure to be a member of the USDA/APHIS/WS family to help each other in what ever crisis may occur. Again, with our deepest appreciation.

God bless,
Antonio R. Salas and Family

On behalf of my family and I, I would like to thank the Wildlife Services employees and their friends from within and outside of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for their kindness and generosity. It has truly touched our hearts and will forever be remembered.

Thank you,
Robert Cruz

Thank you for the contributions. It was very thoughtful of everyone to do that. We had some rough times but everything is coming together now and the contributions were a nice thought. Again on behalf of my wife and I, thank you very much.

George and Bernice Nelson

Every act of kindness done makes life nicer for someone. A thoughtful little deed done a loving way tells more of care and kindness than any words can say. My Family and I would like to say a big Thank You! for your kindness and generosity.

Love,
Danny, Rose, Nicole, and Vincent

Now Your Help Is Needed in the East

The Caribbean and the Gulf Coast were hit by Hurricane Georges late in September. Three APHIS employees in Puerto Rico lost their homes and belongings due to flooding, and employees in Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi may have suffered some losses also. A relief fund has been established for these employees and their families.

If you would like to make a contribution, checks may be made out to "Georges Relief Fund" and sent c/o Richard Tyner; USDA/APHIS/ABS; 4700 River Road, Unit 115; Riverdale, MD 20737.

Schools continued from previous page

Governor's Technology Schools, the students benefit from high technology tools such as videoconferencing equipment, which enables accelerated elementary students to learn higher math from teachers in other schools, and a family voice mail system, allowing parents to obtain information about their children, such as their homework assignments and attendance.

With access to such sophisticated technology, Hyattsville Elementary

appears to be a great learning ground for future scientists. To support this advantage for students, the school chose to use ERTC's donation to purchase a laser disc player, computer programs, and triple beam balances (scales) for the school's laboratory.

The Partnership in Education program always needs support, especially in science, according to Roger White, principal of Hyattsville Elementary, who noted that he gets

requests for tutors every year. "The parents are well aware of what they do for their children and are always asking about them." In fact, last year, the program was unable to provide tutors and mentors to all of the children who needed assistance. If you are interested in participating in the Hyattsville programs or finding out about another program, contact Mary Ellen Keyes at (301) 734-6513. ♦

Visitors Center Attracts Dignitaries and APHIS Employees



(Left to right) IS Associate Deputy Administrator Dan Sheesley, IS Deputy Administrator Angel Cielo, and APHIS Administrator Craig Reed welcome former Senator John Melcher (D-MT) to the Visitors Center at the USDA building in Riverdale, MD, after a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

APHIS PHOTO BY ANN CZAPIEWSKI

IS continued from page 3

items in the country they are exported from, preventing harmful exotic pests and diseases from entering the United States. Preclearance programs provide better protection of U.S. borders because pests and diseases are detected in the country of export or are stopped there or eliminated before coming to our country. Clearing items in the country of origin also decreases inspection activities and the number of personnel needed at already congested U.S. ports-of-entry. Preclearance programs typically include seasonal commodities that require inspectors on a short-term basis, but some programs inspect commodities destined for export to the United States year-round. Examples are fruits and vegetables from countries in South and Central America, and flower bulbs coming from the Netherlands. (See *Inside APHIS*, January/February 1998.)

Not only does IS help countries preclear commodities, but also passengers, baggage and equipment. IS has passenger preclearance pro-

grams in the Bahamas and Bermuda and works with the U.S. Department of Defense to preclear military passengers, their baggage, and equipment before returning from overseas. This is another way of helping stateside ports from becoming overburdened with inspections and keeping pests and diseases from entering the country.

Meanwhile, Back on the Negotiation Front . . .

Further from the front lines of inspections, IS employees facilitate trade negotiations with other countries by working with Veterinary Services, PPQ, and sometimes other USDA and Federal agencies, such as FAS or the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. This could entail explaining U.S. sanitary or phytosanitary (animal or plant health) policies to foreign government officials to reduce or eliminate quarantines and other barriers to U.S. exports. IS employees may also be involved in negotiations of

another country's health requirements for U.S. commodities, or the U.S. requirements for another country's exports. Two examples are a broad agreement signed with Argentina in 1998 and Japan's lifting of its ban on many varieties of U.S. tomatoes in 1997.

During the global attachés conference this past summer, Under Secretary Dunn emphasized the importance of the relationships we have with our trading partners. "We must be able to provide our trading partners with hard scientific data on our exported commodities," said Dunn. Providing this information goes further than just an exchange of information. "The bottom line for APHIS is our credibility with trading partners. We have to assure them that we are as concerned with their animal and plant health as our own."

In addition to developing health and safety standards for commodities with trading partners, APHIS also provides technology and scientific knowledge to these countries. Early this year, in conjunction with Veterinary Services,

IS sponsored training conducted in Spanish on foreign animal diseases. The training was conducted at the biosecurity facilities on Plum Island, NY, giving participants the opportunity to work with diseases first-hand in a contained area. Many Caribbean and South and Central American countries took advantage of the rare opportunity to learn hands-on about diagnosing and identifying animal diseases that could devastate livestock industries or threaten public health if an outbreak occurred. (Read more about the foreign animal disease training in the Spring Issue of *Inside APHIS*.)

And Back on the Home Front . . .

IS has also taken a proactive move in educating international visitors about the agency's expanded role in global trade by opening the Visitors Center and creating an outreach program. The center is just off the lobby in the USDA building at Riverside in Riverdale, MD, which houses a conference center in addition to APHIS' headquarters. Staff in the Center provide assistance with training and orientation programs, consulting,

and a variety of learning experiences relating to global agricultural trade. In addition to fostering a better understanding of APHIS' role in the global trade environment, IS hopes visitors will gain a better understanding of agricultural trade issues in general.

IS' outreach program includes self-guided training modules that provide basic concepts about international sanitary and phytosanitary standards and organizations and how the United States interprets those standards and participates or works with those organizations. The modules are primarily used by APHIS and FAS global attachés and counselors to conduct training at their overseas duty stations; they are also available in the Visitors Center for others to use.

Beyond the Call of Duty

In the Summer Issue of *Inside APHIS*, we profiled IS veterinarian Teresa Hohlfield and how she performs search and rescue missions in her personal time. In fact, she's only one IS employee who's come to the need of others in an emergency.

As you may know, a terrorist bomb exploded on August 7, in a truck in

front of building next to the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. An APHIS area office was located on the sixth floor of a building two blocks from the Embassy. In the APHIS office, windows were blown out from the blast and sliding doors were torn from their frame. No APHIS employees were reported injured, but they soon became involved.

IS' Cheryl French, who was on detail to the office, reported that employees Caroline Ochieng and Agnes Wambur Mugane were of great support during the aftermath of the bombing. Ochieng "has been heaven sent for the families of the Embassy employees who were killed," French said in one report. "Caroline has worked ceaselessly since the bombing assisting the Embassy community, and Agnes has been taking care of the office for us while we were dealing with the crisis." Mugane had been in the office during the explosion and was sitting opposite a chair that was pierced by three large pieces of glass.

"French and Ochieng were not near the Embassy at the time of the explosion, but went to the Nairobi Hospital when they heard about the resulting casualties," according to IS Region IV Director Alex Thiermann. This is where Ochieng began her support of the Embassy employees and families. She and French also assisted medical staff and Embassy personnel with setting up a trauma area and even held up drip lines for patients.

Sanitary and phytosanitary measures, biotechnology, and trade agreements are certainly a big part of what International Services is about. But so is the heart and dedication of the employees of IS. They work with others in the agency, Department, U.S. Government, and other countries to develop and strengthen the coordination, cooperation, and credibility that facilitate U.S. exports and protect U.S. agriculture and public health. ❖



APHIS PHOTO BY ANN CZAPIEWSKI

Organizational and Professional Development's Mary Ellen Keyes (right) signs in at the new Visitors Center and is welcomed by IS' Elaine Jones (left) and Linda Small (center).

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